

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2467
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8005

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO AWACS IT
SUBJECT: RUFFINI LETTER ON AWACS

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF LETTER TO SECRETARY BROWN
FROM MOD RUFFINI. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ORIGINAL IS BEING SENT TO
ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON FOR DELIVERY TO DEPARTMENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE
PROT. N. 3/PA/0617
ROME, APRIL 29, 1978

DR. HAROLD BROWN
DEAR COLLEAGUE,

ON MY RETURN TO ROME I WISH TO THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR
TWO LETTERS OF MARCH 17 AND APRIL 17, IN WHICH YOU OFFERED ME YOUR
REMARKS ON TWO OF THE MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS NATO FACES AT PRESENT.

I HOPE I WAS ABLE TO ILLUSTRATE OUR POSITION ON BOTH CLEARLY
ENOUGH DURING OUR DISCUSSION AT FREDERIKSHAVN. IT MAY BE USEFUL,
HOWEVER, TO SUMMARIZE IT ONCE AGAIN.

OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE AWACS AND LTDP PROGRAMS IS CONDITIONAL
UPON ITALY'S ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION, AS I DESCRIBED IT
TO YOU VERBALLY, WHICH PRECLUDES ANY COMMITMENTS IN ADDITION TO
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PLANNED APPROPRIATIONS.

IN PARTICULAR, GLOBAL EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES FOR ITALIAN
DEFENSE CORRESPOND TO THOSE ENVISAGED FOR THE OTHER NATO COUNTRIES
UNTIL 1984, AND, BASED ON SUCH ESTIMATES (1977 BUDGET PLUS A
3 PERCENT INCREASE IN REAL TERMS), A PLAN WAS PREPARED TO MEET
NATIONAL AND NATO PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS.

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, I WOULD BE GLAD TO MAKE A FURTHER

ATTEMPT WITH MY GOVERNMENT AND THE PARLIAMENT FOR THE AWACS ISSUE, BECAUSE I APPRECIATE THE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE THAT THE ADOPTION OF THIS SYSTEM HAS FOR THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE, EVEN MORE THAN FOR ITALY IN PARTICULAR.

IT IS A FACT, HOWEVER, THAT I CANNOT EXPECT ANY SUCCESS UNLESS I PRESENT AN EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE - SUCH AS YOU PROPOSED - ABSOLUTELY FIRM IN REAL TERMS, WITH THE GUARANTEE, TO BE SET IN A SEPARATE AGREEMENT, THAT ANY ADDITIONAL COST DERIVING IN THE FUTURE FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM, WILL NOT INVOLVE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES ON THE ITALIAN PART.

I MUST ALSO INFORM YOU THAT, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED NATIONAL FINANCIAL AVAILABILITY, THE EFFORT WE WILL ATTEMPT TO MAKE FOR THE AWACS PROGRAM WILL INEVITABLY AFFECT OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE LTDP.

IN PARTICULAR, IN REFERENCE TO THE ABOVE NATIONAL DEFENSE PLANNING, THE CONCLUSIONS THAT HAVE BEEN REACHED FOR SUCH A PROGRAM SHOW WHAT FOLLOWS:

- THIS PLANNING INCLUDES ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF THE TARGETS SET BY THE LTDP;
- THE VALIDITY OF ABOUT 45 PERCENT OF THE REMAINING TARGETS IS FULLY RECOGNIZED, BUT THEY COULD ONLY BE PURSUED SHOULD FINANCIAL POSSIBILITIES APPEAR IN THE FUTURE THAT DO NOT EXIST AT PRESENT;
- AS REGARDS THE REMAINING 30 PERCENT, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND A MORE THOROUGH STUDY ARE REQUIRED BEFORE A CONCRETE EVALUATION MAY BE EXPRESSED ABOUT THEM.

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DESPITE OUR FIRM INTENTION TO PROVIDE A CONCRETE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE'S DEFENSE EFFORT, I DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN GO BEYOND THE ABOVE AT THE MOMENT.

I CONFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT AT THE TIME THE DEFENSE BUDGET WAS SUBMITTED I CALLED THE PARLIAMENT'S ATTENTION TO THIS SUBJECT, SPECIFYING TO THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE THAT THE DEFENSE PROGRAMS IN QUESTION ARE ADEQUATE AND SUITABLY PLANNED TO MAINTAIN NATO'S DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AT A CREDIBLE AND EFFICIENT LEVEL IN THE FUTURE AS WELL.

I AM SURE THAT, ON ACCOUNT OF THE DEEP FEELINGS THAT EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE ALLIANCE YOU MAY WELL UNDERSTAND MY REGRET IN BEING UNABLE TO OFFER A GREATER AVAILABILITY FOR SUCH IMPORTANT PROGRAMS.

I TAKE ONCE MORE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY HIGHEST REGARD AND CONSIDERATION.

(SIGNED) ATTILIO RUFFINI END TEXT.

3. STATE 112301 RECEIVED AS THIS MESSAGE ABOUT TO BE SENT.
LETTER FROM SECRETARY BROWN TO MINISTER RUFFINI WHICH IT CONTAINED WAS DELIVERED MORNING OF MAY 3. GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, AIR DEFENSE, WARNING SYSTEMS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: MARR, IT, NATO
To: STATE
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